

From: Mark Stephens
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/13/02 11:49pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

The US Department of Justice is wrong to attack Microsoft.

Their grounds of attack allege that Microsoft included Internet Explorer with their Windows Operating System. The DOJ claims this harmed consumers because it stifled competition.

I strongly disagree. Microsoft did not harm me in any way, in fact it more than met my needs in an efficient manner.

In University, as in work, there are deadlines to meet and time is a precious commodity. Computers are a tool which can greatly assist in getting things done in a faster, more efficient way.

One thing I did not like about computers is the amount of time and effort it took to install programs. When I needed a report quickly, it took precious time to evaluate and purchase the necessary software. The technical process of installing software was not as simple (as it is today).

Microsoft was able to answer this issue by bundling. They sold the O.S, the web browser together, which was exactly what I was looking for. I liked the idea of buying a new PC with all the software included.

The US DOJ directly told Microsoft this is wrong, and indirectly is telling me that my personal desires are actually harming others.

The result of these actions? Instead of getting a solution I want, I will only be allowed to have software solutions which are government approved. I will no longer have the choice which was available before.

I can make my own choices about what is good for me. I will not purchase products that do not meet my needs. The DOJ seems intent on removing the choice of packaged software, and is attacking Microsoft for the 'unlawful' process of meeting this desire.

Also,
The idea of charging microsoft \$1,000,000 per day seems like extortion. I endeavour to see the DOJ to put an end to what appears to be nothing more than an attack on a prosperous company.

(Prosperity being a key factor that differentiates America from almost every other country on Earth.)

Thank you for your time,
-Mark Stephens

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